

ABSTRACT

A process of preparing methylaluminium dichloride by

- 5 (i) reacting by heating a material of the formula $R_3Al_2X_3$, where R is C_1 - C_4 alkyl and X is selected from bromine and iodine with an aluminium-containing material selected from metallic aluminium and a mixture of metallic aluminium and aluminium trichloride in an atmosphere of methyl chloride, with the proviso that when R is methyl and X is iodine, the aluminium-containing material is a
- 10 mixture of aluminium and aluminium trichloride; and
- (ii) when the aluminium-containing material is metallic aluminium, adding aluminium trichloride to this reaction mixture and heating,
- to give a crude reaction product; and
- 15 (iii) if desired, obtaining methylaluminium dichloride from this crude reaction product.

The crude reaction product may be used directly in organic syntheses, such as the

20 cyclisation of ψ -Georgywood to give β -Georgywood.